GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:41
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Agreements for Exchange of White Shipping Information
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries with which bilateral and multilateral agreements for exchange of white shipping information have been signed/operationlised;
(b) whether the Government proposes to enter into said agreements with Indonesia and if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of terrorist activities, human trafficking and piracy in Indian Coastal waters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) The status of signing / operationalisation of bilateral agreements/MoUs with different countries by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India for exchange of white shipping information are as follows:

S.No.	Signed	Operationalised
(i)	Singapore	Yes
(ii)	Mauritius	Yes
(iii)	Sri Lanka	Yes
(iv)	Australia	Yes
(v)	Vietnam	Yes
(vi)	USA	Pending
(vii)	Maldives	Pending
(viii)	Seychelles	Pending
(ix)	Oman	Pending
(x)	France	Pending

No multilateral agreement on the subject has been signed till date.

(b) The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs have informed that a draft of Agreement with Indonesia was shared with the Indonesian side in June, 2015. The matter was discussed during the meeting of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) held in Jakarta on 17-18 January, 2017.

(c) Steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of terrorist activities, human trafficking and piracy in Indian Coastal waters, as informed by Ministry of Defence, are as follows:

(i) A preventive mechanism in the form of a three-tiered cover [Indian Navy (IN), Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Marine Police] of coastal security with demarcated areas of responsibility is already in existence.
(ii) The IN, ICG and State Marine Police units patrol the Maritime Zones of India.

(iii) State wise Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for coordination among various agencies on coastal security issues have been instituted to handle various types of situations.
(iv) Towards strengthening coastal and offshore security, the IN has undertaken the following measures: setting-up Joint Operation Centres (JOCs) at Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Port Blair; setting-up of specialised force, the SagarPrahariBal (SPB), comprising 1000 personnel and 80 Fast Interceptor Craft (FICs); induction of 23 Immediate Support Vessels (ISVs); and establishment of National Command Control Communication and Intelligence (NC3I) Network interlinking 51 nodes of the IN and ICG.
(v) Coastal Security Exercises are also being undertaken periodically in all Coastal States and UTs to develop a robust response while assessing the efficacy of current mechanisms.
(vi) Towards strengthening the monitoring mechanism, the entire coastline is planned to be kept under electronic surveillance. In addition to patrolling by surface and air assets, electronic surveillance of the maritime zones is undertaken using chain of Coastal Radars, National Automatic Identification System (NAIS), Long Range Identification and Tracking, open information sources, etc. This assists in developing comprehensive Maritime Domain Awareness.
(vii) Project for fitment of transponders to track fishing vessels is being progressed in coordination amongst the concerned agencies.
(viii) A National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) project to integrate all maritime databases is being progressed to enhance the domain awareness and integrated approach.
(ix) For suppressing piracy, IN has commenced deployment in the International Recognised Transit Corridor (IRTC) and adjoining areas in the Gulf of Aden in Oct 08. The IN and ICG have taken swift action to counter piracy and its spread in the Arabian Sea,

thwarting a total of 41 piracy attacks.

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